

HEALTH
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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF CHARLTON KINGS



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

STEPHEN KNIGHT

M.B., B.S.(Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

For the Year

1946

Charlton Kings Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1946

*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of
Charlton Kings.*

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Cannell and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the Health of the District for the year 1946. Included in the Report is a statement of your Sanitary Inspector (Mr. F. A. Middleton) on his work during the year.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population, 5,985, is a little up on that for the previous year and is in line with the number of ration books issued to residents in the District which is 6,123.

The Birth Rate, 16.1, is somewhat below the rate, 19.1, for the Country as a whole but in common with the latter shows an appreciable upward trend which is a welcome feature after the decline in pre-war years.

The Death Rate, 13.3, is a little higher than the national rate, 11.5. Explanation for both the higher death rate and lower birth rate in Charlton Kings is because there is a relatively high proportion of elderly people in the Urban District.

Our infantile mortality rate this year is also above the national figure, 52 as against 43, but owing to the small numbers involved a single death has an appreciable effect upon the final figures for the district.

There were, in fact, 5 deaths among infants dying before their first birthday; two were due to birth injuries or congenital malformations and one was due to prematurity.

The District continued to enjoy freedom from acute infectious disease. Direct action by reason of the immunisation campaign is responsible for the absence of diphtheria, while the rising standards of personal and environmental hygiene are responsible for the all round improvement.

It will be seen that nine new cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year; unfortunately from the national viewpoint this number cannot be regarded as large in view of the size of our population. The incidence of this disease has not declined in the same way as other infectious diseases.

Overcrowding, bad housing and inadequate nutrition are factors which favour the spread of tuberculosis.

It is important that the person affected should have a bedroom to himself. Now that building of Council houses has been resumed it will be easier to accommodate these families as their circumstances come to light.

A start was made in the construction of 56 houses which formed the first instalment of the Council's post-war housing programme. At the end of the year all 56 houses were in course of construction, but owing to delays in arrival of materials none had been finished. The uniform layout of the estate comprises 112 houses, but permission could not be obtained from the Ministry of Health to put the remaining 56 houses out to tender.

The difficulties which held up the construction of new houses affected even more the reconstruction and improvement of existing houses. Work in this connection has been confined, of necessity, to the issue of notices for the remedy of sanitary defects. Even in these cases where the health of the occupants is directly affected great difficulty has been met in getting the works completed.

In order that the greatest benefit may be derived from improvements in housing, the public services and the new health services, it is necessary for people to become health conscious, aiming at positive health and well being. To foster and cultivate such a point of view much work in health education is needed.

Therefore as opportunities occur by way of talks etc., they are taken gladly to further this aim.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

STEPHEN KNIGHT,

Medical Officer of Health.

JULY 1947

Charlton Kings Urban District Council.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District of Charlton Kings for the year 1946.

Area in Acres, 3,399.

Rateable value, £40,769.

Number of inhabited houses, 1,695.

Population (as estimated by the Registrar General), 5,985.
(mid 1946)

Yield of one penny rate, £163/11/5d.

Vital Statistics

BIRTHS

| | | LIVE BIRTHS | | Total |
|--------------|-----|-------------|---------|-------|
| | | Males | Females | |
| Legitimate | ... | 50 | 39 | 89 |
| Illegitimate | ... | 3 | 4 | 7 |
| Total | ... | 53 | 43 | 96 |

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population, 16.1.

| | | STILL BIRTHS | | Total |
|--------------|-----|--------------|--------|-------|
| | | Males | Female | |
| Legitimate | ... | 1 | — | 1 |
| Illegitimate | ... | — | — | — |
| Total | ... | 1 | — | 1 |

Still Births per 1,000 of the estimated population, 0.2.

INFANTILE DEATH RATE

| | | Males | Females | Total |
|--------------|-----|-------|---------|-------|
| Legitimate | ... | — | 4 | 4 |
| Illegitimate | ... | 1 | — | 1 |
| Total | ... | 1 | 4 | 5 |

Giving an Infantile Mortality Rate of 52 per 1,000 Live Births.

DEATHS

80 (32 Males, 48 Females) deaths of residents were registered during the year, giving a Death Rate of 13.3 per 1,000 population.

Deaths from Cancer, 1.3 per 1,000 population.

The principle causes of death were :—

| DISEASE | | | | Males | Females |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-------|---------|
| Typhoid and Para. Fevers | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| Cerebro Spinal Fever | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| Scarlet Fever | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| Whooping Cough | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| Diphtheria | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| Tuberculosis—Respiratory System | ... | ... | ... | 6 | 1 |
| Other forms of Tuberculosis | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| Syphilis Diseases | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| Influenza | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| Measles | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| Acute Poliomyelitis | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| Polio Encephalitis | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| Acute Infect. Encephalitis | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| Cancer { Bucc. Cav. Oesophagus (M) Uterus (F) } | ... | ... | ... | — | 2 |
| Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum | ... | ... | ... | 2 | — |
| Cancer of Breast | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| Cancer of other Sites | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 3 |
| Diabetes | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 9 |
| Heart Disease | ... | ... | ... | 10 | 17 |
| Other Diseases of Circulatory System | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 |
| Bronchitis | ... | ... | ... | 1 | — |
| Pneumonia | ... | ... | ... | — | 6 |
| Other Respiratory Diseases | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum | ... | ... | ... | 1 | — |
| Diarrhoea under two years of age | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| Appendicitis | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| Other Digestive Diseases | ... | ... | ... | 1 | — |
| Nephritis | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 |
| Puerperal and Post-Abortion Sepsis | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| Other Maternal Causes | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| Premature Birth | ... | ... | ... | — | 1 |
| Congenital Malformation—Birth Injuries, Infantile | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| Disease, etc. | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 |
| Suicide | ... | ... | ... | — | 1 |
| Road Traffic Acc. | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| Other Violent Causes | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| All other Causes | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 5 |
| Total | ... | ... | ... | 32 | 48 |
| Total, both Male and Female | ... | ... | ... | 80 | |

Infectious Diseases notified during 1946

(Excluding Tuberculosis)

| DISEASES. | Under 1 year | 1 to 5 | 5 to 15 | 15 to 25 | 25 and upwards | Total |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------|---------|----------|-------------------|-------|
| | M. F. | M. F. | M. F. | M. F. | M. F. | |
| Scarlet Fever ... | — — | — 3 | — — | — — | — — | 3 |
| Diphtheria ... | — — | — — | — — | — — | — — | — |
| Whooping Cough | — — | 2 2 | 2 1 | — — | — — | 7 |
| Measles ... | — — | 5 3 | 6 5 | — — | — — | 19 |
| Pneumonia ... | — — | — — | — — | — — | 1 — | 1 |
| Erysipelas ... | — — | — — | — — | — — | — — | — |
| Dysentery ... | — 1 | — 1 | — 1 | — — | — — | 3 |

TUBERCULOSIS

The following new cases were notified during the year :

| PULMONARY | | | NON-PULMONARY | | | ALL FORMS |
|-----------|---------|-------|---------------|---------|-------|-----------|
| Males | Females | Total | Males | Females | Total | Total |
| 6 | 2 | 8 | — | 1 | 1 | 9 |

The Age Group at notification :

| | 0 to 5 | 5 to 15 | 15 to 25 | 25 and upward |
|---------------|--------|---------|----------|---------------|
| | M. F. | M. F. | M. F. | M. F. |
| Pulmonary | — — | — — | 1 — | 5 2 |
| Non-Pulmonary | — — | — 1 | — — | — — |

The number of cases on the Register, 31st December, 1946, were as follows :—

| PULMONARY | | | NON-PULMONARY | | | ALL FORMS |
|-----------|---------|-------|---------------|---------|-------|-----------|
| Males | Females | Total | Males | Females | Total | Total |
| 17 | 13 | 30 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 38 |

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

There were no cases of Diphtheria in the district during the year. The success of the immunisation campaign is the determining factor in our freedom from this scourge. 73 children were brought up for primary immunisation raising the percentage of immunised children from 60% to 73%. The high proportion of immunised children in the district is a matter for congratulation and eliminates the risk of an epidemic of this disease.

47 children were given a reinforcing dose on entry into school at a time when the maximum protection is needed.

Artificial immunity does not last indefinitely and subsequent to the primary immunisation at about nine months old it is necessary to give a boosting dose at the age of 4 or 5 years.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION

Number of Children who have completed a full course of Immunisation up to 31st December, 1946:—

| Age at 31/12/46 i.e. born in Year | Under 1 1946 | 1 1945 | 2 1944 | 3 1943 | 4 1942 | 5 to 9 1937-41 | 10 to 14 1932-36 | Total under 15 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| No. Immunised | 0 | 30 | 69 | 64 | 51 | 370 | 258 | 842 |
| Estimated mid-year Population 1946 | 407 | | | | | 740 | | 1147 |

DIPHTHERIA NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS IN RELATION TO IMMUNISATION

No cases were notified and no deaths occurred from diphtheria.

BIRTH, DEATH, AND INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS

| | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 1945 | 1946 |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|
| Birth Rate ... (Per 1,000 population) | 11·8 | 17·9 | 19·3 | 15·5 | 16·1 |
| Death Rate ... (Per 1,000 population) | 14·4 | 13·5 | 11·8 | 12·2 | 13·3 |
| Infantile Mortality Rate... (Per 1,000 Live Births) | 13·8 | 66·0 | 70·0 | 23 | 52 |
| (Deaths of infants under one year) | | | | | |

FOR COMPARISON, THE BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES OF ENGLAND AND WALES, ETC., ARE GIVEN BELOW

| | England and Wales | 126 C.B.'s and Great Towns | 148 Smaller Towns | Charlton Kings U.D. |
|--|-------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Birth Rate ... (Per 1,000 population) | 19·1 | 22·2 | 21·3 | 16·1 |
| Death Rate ... (Per 1,000 population) | 11·5 | 12·7 | 11·7 | 13·3 |
| Infantile Mortality Rate (Deaths of infants under 1 year) (Per 1,000 Live Births) | 43 | 46 | 37 | 52 |
| Deaths under 2 years of age from Diarrhoea and Enteritis ... (Per 1,000 Live Births) | 4·4 | 6·1 | 2·8 | — |

WATER SUPPLY

The Urban District is within the statutory water supply area of the Cheltenham Corporation Water Undertaking. The supply is satisfactory both as regards quantity and quality.

The following table gives the position with regard to a public piped supply :—

| TOTAL | | <i>a</i> Direct to house | | <i>b</i> By Standpipe |
|-------|-------------------|-----------------------------|------|--------------------------|
| 1695 | No. of houses | } supplied by | 1509 | 14 |
| 5985 | No. of population | | 5370 | 47 |

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR

(Mr. F. A. Middleton)

COWSHEDS, DAIRIES, BAKEHOUSES, FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS, ETC.

| | Number of Inspections | Notices served | Nuisances abated |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Cowsheds and Dairies ... | 152 | — | — |
| Bakehouses ... | 8 | — | — |
| Factories and Workshops, etc. | 43 | — | — |

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING 1946

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 38
- (b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ... 46
2. (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 Nil
- (b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ... Nil
- Number of defective houses rendered fit (only portion done) ...

FOOD CONDEMNED DURING THE YEAR 1946

I have condemned during the past year 136 lbs. food as unfit for human food. This I sent to depot for pig food.

HOUSING—OVERCROWDING

We are very overcrowded in this district owing to shortage of houses and an influx of new residents from other districts.

SEWAGE

The sewage in this district is now very old and defective. It should be renewed and extended to take the sewage of the many septic tanks now in use in this district.

We are badly in need of public conveniences in this district. Many people visit this district and I am often asked where the conveniences are situated.